



KALISPELL POLICE DEPARTMENT

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EXHIBIT 1
DATE 1/31/2013
HB 292

"Policing
Through
Partnerships"

January 30, 2013

To: House Judiciary Committee
From: Roger Nasset, Chief of Police
Subject: Support of HB 292- LC0888

To whom it may Concern;

I apologize for not being able to present to you in person however thank you for the opportunity to relay my support of HB 292, "An act requiring pawnbrokers or junk dealers to notify law enforcement when a firearm is to be pawned or purchased...".

I have had the opportunity to review the Bill as sponsored by House Representative Randy Brodehl. To be clear I am 100% in favor of gun ownership and support legitimate firearms sales and purchases by those that acquire firearms through legal means.

To accentuate my point, in the city limits of Kalispell in 2011 and 2012 83 firearms were reported stolen. Unfortunately, it is understood amongst thieves that stealing a firearm can bring quick money or be bartered other valuables. One of the quickest and most accessible avenues for turning these firearms around is through pawn shops and/or second hand dealers. It is my belief that the large majority of pawn shops would not knowingly accept a stolen firearm or other items however we know that stolen equipment is routinely located in pawn shops. The problem being, there is not an avenue available to pawn shops/ junk dealers that allows them to check the stolen status of a firearm unless they choose to do so voluntarily by calling law enforcement, they essentially rely on the honesty of those pawning.

To give a specific example; on November 27, 2012 the Kalispell Police Department received a tip of a stolen gun in the possession of a local pawn shop. An officer went to the pawn shop and positively identified the gun as one stole in 2008. In this case, the gun could have remained in pawn or been sold without discovery that it was stolen if it were not for the tip received.

It is irrefutable that many stolen items, including firearms are sold and pawned at pawnshops; this bill will help locate stolen guns and eliminate an avenue for thieves to benefit from stealing firearms.

Thank you for your consideration,

Roger Nasset
Chief of Police



ROGER NASSET, CHIEF OF POLICE